

# Writing Specific Learning Objectives

Learning objectives should be written as if completing the following statement:

*“At the conclusion of this section, the learner will be able to...”*

The completion of this statement should contain action verbs.

The following is a list of effective action verbs for stating learning objectives based on learning levels.

## RECALL

Name  
List  
State  
Describe  
Define  
Recognize  
Recall  
Relate  
Recite  
Read  
Identify  
Locate

## APPLICATION

Organize  
Solve  
Predict  
Plan  
Follow  
Care for  
Construct  
Demonstrate  
Compose  
Estimate  
Measure

## ANALYSIS

Translate  
Illustrate  
Interpret  
Summarize  
Explain  
Compare  
Analyze  
Evaluate  
Discuss  
Differentiate  
Contrast  
Classify  
Designate  
Diagram  
Distinguish  
Order

In writing effective learning objectives, you must keep in mind exactly what you want your students to be able to do after the course. Do not choose one action verb and use it for every learning objective. Use specific and applicable words.

## GOOD

Explain  
Tell  
Choose  
Indicate  
Evaluate  
Apply

## POOR

Know  
Understand  
Determine  
Appreciate  
Grasp  
Become familiar with